

Lesson Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Lesson ID: 92559-28152

Title: FIXED SITE SECURITY

Operation/Exercise Name: MARFOR PROMOTE LIBERTY      Observed: 13 Jun 1990

Originator: COMMARFOR PANAMA

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5. (U) OBSERVATION:

Fixed site security will be critical in any future low intensity conflict (LIC) scenario since fixed bases are nearly inescapable for any extended commitment.

6. (U) DISCUSSION:

The original Marine Forces (MARFOR) Panama mission focused on providing security for the Arraijan Tank Farm. Later we also provided security for the Ammunition Supply Point adjacent to Rodman Naval Station. Interior guard procedures for access points and fixed post must be taught. In addition, elements of patrolling and Observation Post/Listening Posts (OP/LP) procedures must be integrated. In many areas a fixed sentry post could easily become a target. Sentry reliefs may need to be infiltrated through the woods rather than posted by vehicles. Sentry post themselves may need to be positioned and camouflaged in the woods, overlooking the site to be guarded, vice in a sentry booth. Night vision goggles (NVGs) should be used. Posts may need to be checked using drive by motor patrols with radio or infrared (IR) light signals worked out in advance to confirm that all is secure. All of these were used in one form or another during the final phase of operations in Panama. The rotation of numerous units and personnel through the various fixed sites require development of written guard orders that are thoroughly understood by all units and sentries.

7. (U) LESSON LEARNED:

In LIC, planning and manning must take into consideration the need for fixed site security.

8. (U) RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the above described procedures be used during LIC for fixed site security.

9. (U) COMMENTS:  
None stated.

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